



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

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March 30, 2004

The Honorable David H. Wilkins
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby returning without my approval H. 4707, R-225, a Joint Resolution:

TO PROVIDE THAT THE SCHOOL DAYS MISSED ON JANUARY 26, 27, AND 28, 2004, BY THE STUDENTS OF DILLON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NOS. 1, 2, AND 3 WHEN THE SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED DUE TO SNOW, ICE, OR INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE MAKE-UP REQUIREMENT OF THE DEFINED MINIMUM PLAN THAT FULL SCHOOL DAYS MISSED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES BE MADE UP.

This veto is based on the intention upon which Act 89 of 2003 was signed by me on July 23, 2003. When I signed this legislation last year, it was my aim to give school districts a series of options to make up missed school days. My opposition to legislation like H. 4707 is that it is unnecessary given the enactment of Act 89.

Section 1 of Act 89 (Section 59-1-430(A) of the South Carolina Code of Laws) states that, "[a]ll school districts shall designate annually at least three days within their school calendars to be used as make-up days in the event of . . . [snow, extreme weather conditions, or other disruptions requiring schools to close]." As a result of this requirement, all three Dillon County school districts designated February 16 and March 12 as make-up days. The school districts did make up the missed February 26 snow day. They, however, requested the General Assembly to waive the remaining days.

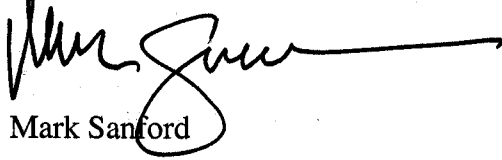
As a policy, we should require school districts to exhaust their make-up days prior to providing legislative relief under § 59-1-430(B), except in extremely unusual circumstances. Currently, many school districts have either proceeded with using their scheduled make-up days or intend to do so. I believe Act 89 should be applied uniformly to all school districts such that school

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districts should not obtain legislative relief before making up its missed days. This policy was applied when I recently signed H. 4937, R-226, a bill authorizing the Greenville County school boards to forgive two additional days beyond the three scheduled make-up days already exhausted by Greenville County students. That legislation is the model in both process and policy that this administration envisioned when I signed Act 89 in 2003.

For this reason, I am returning H. 4707, R-225 to you without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Sanford